



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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State Health Department Provides Flood Clean-up Information

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health has prepared information about proper cleanup after a flood, according to Stacy Eberl, public information coordinator for the Department of Health.

A number of topics are covered, including emergency health precautions, mold in homes, waste disposal, indoor heating oil tanks, well disinfection, private sewer and septic systems, and proper disposal of sandbags. The information is available on the department's website at www.ndhealth.gov/flood or residents can call 701.328.5150 to request a packet of information be mailed to them. Information also is available on the website in other languages, including Spanish, Arabic, Bosnian and Somali.

Emergency Health Precautions – This fact sheet deals with personal precautions, issues related to power (electrical and natural gas or propane), flooded food items, and ensuring a safe drinking water supply. A list of labs that can test the bacteriological safety of drinking water is included.

Mold in Homes – Moisture in homes can cause mold problems after a flood. This fact sheet includes information about the health effects of mold, how to detect mold and general clean-up guidelines.

Proper Waste Disposal – When cleaning up damaged items in the home after flooding, it may be tempting to dispose of everything into one big heap. However, different types of waste may need to be handled separately. Mixing wastes can slow debris cleanup and cause the waste to be more expensive to dispose of in local landfills. This fact sheet gives guidance about proper waste disposal.

Indoor Heating Oil – Indoor fuel oil spills can have serious air quality consequences. This fact sheet discusses spill control, reporting and cleanup.

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Proper Well Disinfection – Water from wells that have been flooded are considered unsafe for consumption until proven otherwise. This fact sheet gives detailed information about how to disinfect and test private wells so they are safe to use after a flood. A list of labs that can test water for bacteriological safety is included.

Private Sewer and Septic Systems – Homes with private sewer and septic systems can experience problems when flood water enters the system. This fact sheet gives tips to help prevent problems from occurring.

Sandbag Cleanup After a Flood – Once the danger of flooding is over, community officials and homeowners will be faced with cleaning up sandbags that were used for flood control. This fact sheet provides guidance about how to properly dispose of sandbags in order to prevent potential public and/or environmental health impacts.

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